

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DDI-045-82
6 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Deputy Special Assistant for Nuclear
Proliferation Intelligence

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SUBJECT:

Background for NFIB Review of the Draft Memorandum
to Holders to SNIE 6-78 (Likelihood of Attempted
Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons or Materials by
Foreign Terrorist Groups for Use Against the
United States or US Interests)

1. Requester and Actions to Date. The subject memorandum (attached) was requested by the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, who registered his increasing concern about terrorism in general and nuclear terrorism in particular. On 29 December 1981, the draft was approved by Admiral Inman for release to the NFIB. It was prepared by [REDACTED] (OGI/CIA) and coordinated by the NFIB Representatives on 23 December 1981.

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2. Substance. The key judgments of the original SNIE (also attached) are generally validated and repeated in the draft memorandum. The new judgments in the memorandum address the growing likelihood of terrorist incidents against nuclear facilities or weapons (for political gain) as opposed to actual acquisition and use of a nuclear weapon (whose probability remains low in the near term). The basis for these new judgments lies in the continued spread of nuclear facilities and technologies played against rising apprehensions, particularly in Western Europe, over nuclear development and weapon modernization. There are no dissents in the draft nor are any anticipated in the course of the NFIB review.

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SECRET [REDACTED]

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3. Participants and Policy Interests. Representatives of the FBI and the Defense Nuclear Agency participated in the coordination process with State/INR, DIA, NSA, Treasury, DoE and Service representatives. The Department of Justice noted its particular interest in the paper because of its responsibilities for the development of policy in the area of terrorism through the FBI, the Interdepartmental Group on International Terrorism, and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security. The paper will also be of high interest to the DoD which recently sponsored a government-wide seminar on nuclear weapons security under the auspices of the JCS Director of Operations and the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy. The seminar concluded with a finding that increased emphasis had to be placed on the security of nuclear weapons to reduce their vulnerability to terrorism, demonstrations, and vandalism. (A memorandum to the DCI on the seminar is attached, FYI.)

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5. Recommendation. I recommend that you concur in the Memo to Holders as drafted and that you concur in the recommendation not to release it to foreign governments.

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Attachments:
As Stated

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